

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-05 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 MMO-01 /100 W

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R 261718Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5120

INFO SECDEF

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14926

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MT, DG

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA: RAMGOOLAM ON ILOIS RESETTLEMENT

1. MAURITIAN PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM MET WITH FCO MINISTER OF STATE DAVID ENNALS SEPTEMBER 24 TO DISCUSS SEVERAL BILATERAL MATTERS INCLUDING QUESTION OF RESETTLEMENT OF ILOIS FROM DIEGO GARCIA. RAMGOOLAM BLAMED THE PRESS FOR EXAGGERATING A PROBLEM BEYOND ITS RIGHTFUL PROPORTIONS. HE ASSERTED THAT THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT HAD ALWAYS INTENDED TO USE THE 650,000 POUNDS PROVIDED BY HMG FOR A RESETTLEMENT SCHEME, BUT THE ILOIS THEMSELVES WERE THOROUGHLY UNINTERESTED IN ANY PROGRAM AND ILL SUITED FOR MOST OCCUPATIONS. HE CLAIMED HIS GOVERNMENT, IN FACE OF ILOIS INDOLENCE, HAD SIMPLY SUSTAINED THE GROUP ON THE DOLE. RAMGOOLAM CLAIMS THE RESETTLEMENT FUND REMAINS INTACT AND AVAILABLE FOR ANY NEW PROGRAM. AT THIS STAGE, THE PRIME MINISTER HINTED THAT DUE TO INFLATION AND THE RECENT CYCLONE, THE FUND COULD NOW PROVE
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INADEQUATE, TO WHICH ENNALS REPLIED THAT HMG CONSIDERED

THE INITIAL DONATION A FULL AND FINAL PAYMENT. RAMGOOLAM SLIGHTLY CRESTFALLEN, DID NOT PURSUE THE QUESTION. HE DID SAY HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PRESENTLY WORKING ON A NEW RESETTLEMENT SCHEME AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE HELP OF A BRITISH ADVISER. ENNALS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE.

2. ACCORDING TO FCO SOURCE, DIEGO GARCIA TOOK SURPRISINGLY LITTLE TIME IN THE DISCUSSION.

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

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06 JUL 2006

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